

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: REGIONWIDE

County: Nevada, Sierra

Applicant: SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

**Project Title: YUBA 2010: TOOLS AND CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORTED
WATERSHED SCIENCE, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Reference Number: SNC 070287

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will integrate a decade of watershed assessment, planning and monitoring activity to establish a scientifically rigorous water quality monitoring program that leverages broad local community support through a publicly-accessible database and information sharing web tools.

The project is built on three interrelated components with the following objectives:

1. Community Supported Watershed Science: Implement a cohesive and comprehensive program that optimizes the use of citizens to support assessment, planning and management of watershed resources.
2. River Monitoring Database: Provide a transportable model database to serve Sierra Nevada groups measuring water quality in streams and rivers.
3. Yuba Watershed Information System: Provide a sustainable information system for supporting watershed-based education and cooperation.

Progress reports will be submitted at six (6) months, twelve (12) months and eighteen (18) months following the approval of the agreement. Each progress report shall include but not be limited to:

- A summary of work completed during the reporting period;
- A statement of tasks or milestones and a report on the status of each, including public and agency meetings and other partnerships;
- A statement of any challenges or opportunities encountered in accomplishing the scope of work;
- An assessment of deliverables or outcomes as compared to the timeline in the Project Schedule;
- A comparison of actual versus budgeted costs to date; and
- Copies of any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this agreement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Task 1: Implement the Community-Supported Science Program	
Revise water quality monitoring plan and QAPP	August 15, 2008
Develop new protocols for citizen programs	October 15, 2008
Provide updated training to citizens	December 15, 2008, then ongoing
Publish annual "State of the Yuba" science reports in 2009 and 2010	February 15, 2009 and February 15, 2010
Develop program materials for use by others in region	June 1, 2009
Task 2: Build a Model River Monitoring Database	
Redesign architecture with Advisory Council	September 1, 2008
Develop middle-tier and front-end applications	December 15, 2008
Customize Access queries and reports	Jan and Feb 2009

Database testing and re-customization	March 2009
Register database creative commons	April 1, 2009
Draft technology transfer materials	May 2009
Outreach and training for organizations in region	Summer 2009
Task 3: Produce a sustainable Yuba Watershed Information System	
Expand technical advisory group in regional/state-wide expertise	June – Aug 2008
Survey user needs and preferences	June – Aug 2008
Develop architectural plan building on 2008 system/website	December 15, 2008
Contract programmer of webbuilder customization	January 15, 2009
Expand content of bibliography, photos, and data	March 15, 2009
Update Mapserver project with expanded content and dynamic linkages within system	April 15, 2009
Conduct trail postings, review and revisions	Feb – May 2009
Enhance web portal for building cooperation and providing community interaction	Feb – July 2009
Establish and publish maintenance protocols	August 1, 2009
Develop materials/outreach for supporting adoption of system in other watersheds	October 1, 2009
Submit 6 month report to SNC	October 31, 2008
Submit 12 month report to SNC	April 20, 2009
Submit 18 month report to SNC	October 31, 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	February 15, 2010

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Task 1: Implement the Community-Supported Science Program	\$43,600
Task 2: Build a Model River Monitoring Database	\$17,380
Task 3: Produce a sustainable Yuba Watershed Information System	\$19,600
Administrative Overhead	\$4,029
GRAND TOTAL	\$84,609

Letters of Support:

- None submitted with application

Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding for this grant request in the amount of \$84,609.

(SNC 070287)

Project Title: Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration

2. Project Summary

The Yuba River watershed was the epicenter for the extractive economy that catalyzed the creation of the modern State of California, and which suddenly and dramatically transformed ecological function and human interaction within the greater Sierra Nevada Watershed (also known from an upstream perspective as the San Francisco Bay Watershed). Placer, hardrock and hydraulic mining—and the associated and inherited water system engineering, massive-scale sediment transport, and mining toxics legacy-- were all pioneered in the Yuba Watershed. For over 150 years the natural capital of the watershed has been heavily mined, deforested, grazed and diverted out of basin by clever, determined, and ambitious people.

The proposed Project, “Yuba 2010: Tools and Capacity for Community Supported Watershed Science, Protection and Restoration,” seeks to draw upon this most valuable resource—namely human ingenuity and local experiential knowledge—as the engine for a coordinated approach to water quality protection and watershed restoration in the Yuba basin. The project aims to integrate a decade of watershed assessment, planning and monitoring activity into a cohesive program supported by publicly-accessible database and information sharing web tools.

Previous and current public investments by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program and other sponsors have afforded SYRCL an opportunity to establish and innovate a scientifically rigorous water quality monitoring program that leverages broad local community support.

The Yuba 2010 Project is built on three inter-related components with the following objectives:

- 1) **Community Supported Watershed Science:** Implement a cohesive and comprehensive program that optimizes the use of citizens to support assessment, planning and management of watershed resources.
- 2) **River Monitoring Database:** Provide a transportable model database to serve Sierra Nevada groups measuring water quality in streams and rivers
- 3) **Yuba Watershed Information System:** Provide a sustainable information system for supporting watershed-based education and cooperation.

The Yuba 2010 Project is buttressed by a watershed assessment process currently undertaken as a major task within the Yuba Strategy project, funded by DWR, managed by SYRCL, and directed through a Steering Committee well-represented by local, state and federal agency personnel. Yuba 2010 also coincides with a unique pulse of scientific attention and research coordination drawn to the Yuba watershed through a series of hydropower project re-licensings.

The Yuba 2010 Project supports a long term plan to complete the transition of the Yuba Bioregion from its historic reputation for resource extraction and environmental destruction to its

current and future role as an epicenter for community renewal through engagement in ecological restoration.